

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

John 3:1-21

*“Born of water and Spirit.”*



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
Ella Kate Landsittel

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026**  
**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**PRELUDE**            “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT #349**        “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the wilderness of our wandering, God meets us with mercy.

**We come seeking healing, hope, and the promise of new life.**

As Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, so Christ is lifted up for the healing of the world.

**We lift our eyes to Jesus, the One who brings life out of death.**

Jesus tells us: “You must be born from above.” In baptism, the Spirit breathes new life into us.

**We come to worship the God who claims us in love, renews us by grace, and makes us children of the light.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, You call us into a life we cannot give ourselves. You meet us like Nicodemus, with questions and longing, and You meet us like Israel, in the wilderness places where trust is hard. Lift our eyes again to Christ, the One raised up for our healing. As we celebrate the gift of Holy Baptism today, remind us that new birth is your work—a gift of water, Spirit, and grace. Make us a people who live as those born from above, trusting Your love that holds the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #128**    “He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought”

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Merciful God, we confess that we grow impatient in the wilderness.**

**We complain more than we trust. We cling to what we know instead of opening ourselves to the new birth You offer. We turn our eyes toward lesser lights instead of looking to Christ, lifted up for our healing. Forgive us, renew us, and breathe Your Spirit upon us, that we may walk as children of Your covenant.**

(Let us confess our sins in silence.)

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**Spirit of God, you hovered over the waters at creation, and you stir within us still. As we open the scriptures, breathe your truth into our hearing, your grace into our understanding, and your light into our living. Lift our eyes to Christ, that we may be born anew and walk the path that leads to life. Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Numbers 21: 4-9

## **THE PSALTER #844**

Psalm 121

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Romans 5: 1-11

## **\*GOSPEL LESSON**

John 3: 1-21

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN #405** “Seek Ye First”

**HOLY BAPTISM #39** The Baptismal Covenant II

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

## **GOD’S GIFTS AND OUR TITHES**

**ANTHEM** “Change My Heart, O God”

## **\*DOXOLOGY #95**

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**Gracious God, you so loved the world that You gave Your Son. Receive these gifts—signs of our gratitude and our desire to share Your healing love with all. Use them, and use us, to lift high the light of Christ in this community and beyond. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #127** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

## **\*SENDING FORTH**

Go forth as a people who have looked upon the love of God.  
Go forth as those born of the Spirit, renewed in grace, and claimed in the waters of baptism.  
Go forth to lift high the light of Christ so that the world may see and live.  
**We go in the peace of Christ, to walk in the light and share His love. Amen.**

This morning's flowers are shared by Len and Debra Ripley  
in honor of the Baptism of Ella Kate Landsittel.

**Participating in Worship Today:**

Steve Strange and Harriett Tindall

**February 8, 2025:**

Worship Attendance: 33 Last Week's Giving: \$1,768.00

Jerry Zellmer, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves,  
Mike Wyndham, Kayne Gantt, Bob Spratlin, Jane Loy,  
Evan McMillan, Donna Padgette, Laura & Jim Emory,  
Ethelynn Boozer & Family, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren  
(Donna's niece), Dale Steele, Margaret Steele, Thomas  
Tindall, Buff Yelton, Dawn & Berry Wren



**Nancie's Clothes Closet**

**Mondays 10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm-5:00pm**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**Church Council Fellowship Hall 10:00am**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**Lenten Study Fellowship Hall 2:00pm**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

**Fellowship Brunch Fellowship Hall (after service)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12**

**Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting**

**Fellowship Hall 9:30 Social Time 10:00am Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

**United Methodist Men Fellowship Hall 8:30am**

**CONTACT**

**INFORMATION**

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Church Website: [EIUMC.org](http://EIUMC.org)

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# Good Tide-ings

Edisto Island United Methodist Church

8193 Palmetto Road

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:00am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23  
Nancie's Clothes Closet  
10:00am-1:00pm & 2:00pm -5:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten Study  
Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
Church Council  
Fellowship Hall  
10:00am

SUNDAY, MARCH 8  
Fellowship Brunch  
Fellowship Hall  
(after service)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12  
Godwin-Pate Circle Meeting  
Fellowship Hall  
9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18  
United Methodist Men  
Fellowship Hall  
8:30am

### “Lifted Up, Born Anew”

This Sunday we begin our Lenten journey, and the scriptures appointed for the day take us straight into the heart of what Lent is really about: honesty, healing, and new birth. I am doing something new this Lent. I am not using the Revised Common Lectionary. I'm using an alternative lectionary taken from the Lenten Companion of a wonderful source, “Feasting on the Word.”

In our ‘new’ Old Testament Lesson from Numbers 21, Israel finds itself in a wilderness that is not just geographical but spiritual. They are worn down, discouraged, and impatient. The wilderness has a way of doing that to us. It exposes the places where our trust falters and our fears grow louder. As the Feasting on the Word Lenten Companion reminds us, the wilderness reveals “the fragile places where faith is tested and grace becomes necessary.” Lent invites us to name those places—not to shame us, but to free us.

Our Gospel lesson is familiar. Maybe, too familiar! John's Gospel brings us another wilderness of the heart. Nicodemus comes to Jesus “by night,” carrying questions he can't quite articulate. John scholar Raymond Brown notes that in John, “night” is never just a time of day; it is a symbol of confusion, searching, and incomplete faith. Nicodemus is a leader, a teacher, a man who knows the tradition well—yet something in him is still restless. Something in him is still seeking.

*(continued on page 2)*

*(“Fear Factor”, continued from page 1)*

And Jesus meets him with an invitation: “You must be born from above.”

It is not a command to try harder or believe more perfectly. It is an invitation to receive what only God can give. The danger of familiar passages is that “we hear without listening.” But if we listen again, we hear the astonishing truth at the center of the gospel:

God so loved the world.

Not judged.

Not tolerated.

Loved.

Loved enough to enter our wilderness.

Loved enough to be lifted up for our healing.

Loved enough to offer new birth—not as an achievement, but as a gift.

This Sunday is a big day for my family! We will celebrate the baptism of my youngest grandchild, Ella Kate. In his reflections on baptism, Bishop Will Willimon writes that baptism is “God’s decisive ‘Yes’ to a world full of ‘No’.” Before this child can speak a word, God speaks a promise. Before she can choose God, God has already chosen her. Baptism is a living sign of the new birth Jesus describes to Nicodemus—a reminder that grace always comes first.

As we step into Lent together, I invite you to consider:

Where are the wilderness places in your life right now?

Where do you feel weary, uncertain, or afraid?

Where might God be inviting you to lift your eyes again?

This season is not about self-punishment or spiritual performance. It is about turning our gaze from what weighs us down to the One who lifts us up. It is about walking the path toward the cross with honesty, hope, and the trust of a child carried to the waters of baptism.

I hope you’ll join us this Sunday at 10:00 AM as we begin the journey.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Len Ripley

*Find us on Facebook: “Edisto  
Island United Methodist  
Church”*

*Stream our Sunday services  
LIVE on YouTube.  
Subscribe to “Edisto United  
Methodist Church” for free.*

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

8<sup>th</sup>: Patsy Ackerman

25<sup>th</sup>: Lorraine Bonura

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Scott & Nina Epps

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Jerry Zellmer  
Dylan Rearden  
Lacey Reeves  
Mike Wyndham  
Kayne Gantt  
Bob Spratlin  
Jane Loy  
Evan McMillan  
Donna Padgette  
Laura & Jim Emory  
Ethelynn Boozer & Family  
Nancy Culclasure  
Lauren (Donna’s niece)  
Dale Steele  
Margaret Steele  
Thomas Tindall  
Buff Yelton  
Dawn & Berry Wren

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

(843) 869-3456

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www.eiumc.org

Pastor Len:

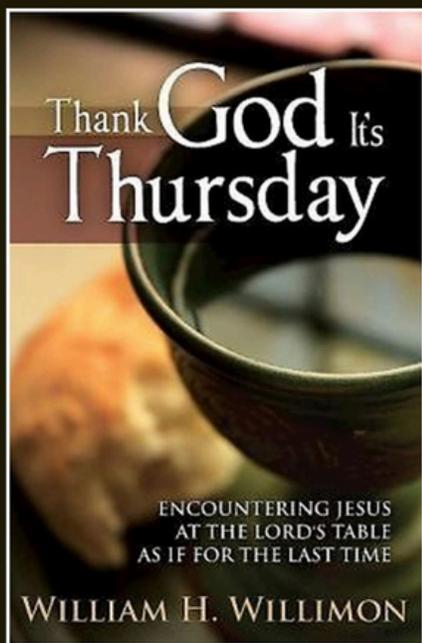
(843) 343-8794

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Please submit prayer requests and information to include in the weekly bulletin and newsletter via email to [UMCEdisto@yahoo.com](mailto:UMCEdisto@yahoo.com) by noon on Wednesday of each week.

# LENTEN STUDY CONTINUES FEBRUARY 26

## EDISTO ISLAND United Methodist Church Lenten Study



Dates and Time  
Thursdays at 2:00 PM  
February 19, 26  
March 5, 12, 19

Our Lenten study continues on Thursday, February 26, at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reading from *Thank God It's Thursday* by Will Willimon.

He is the Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke University Divinity School, retired bishop of the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church, and former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University.

Copies are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please read Chapter Two prior to the study.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Usher/Greeter/Acolyte
- Weekly flowers for the sanctuary
- Monthly fellowship brunch
- Monthly Communion server
- Monthly Scripture reader

## IMPORTANT WEATHER REMINDER

It looks like we are in the clear for the foreseeable future. But be sure to continue to check your emails from the church for weather updates as they might possibly be needed!

